

Dear Sirs,

Please give serious consideration to H.B. 5579 concerning climate change. It has essential strategic and pragmatic value in regard to the state's response to climate change.

With the ill advised expansion of the natural gas usage and accompanying infrastructure build out, it is even more important for the state, through the governor's council on climate change, stay on top the progress of GHG reductions at more frequent intervals with specific interim goals. These goals are already seriously threatened, about ten years out, by the natural gas boondoggle which is creating sunken costs and will strand assets. Indeed, methane burning will run up against the administration's climate goals in a big way, even not considering upstream methane leaks, despite the lower methane GHG exhaust emission.

This stricter oversight and analysis provided by H.B. 5579, with hopefully a 2040 goal as well as the proposed 2030 date, will shed necessary light on the state's true position in relation to the state's long term GHG reduction goal in a necessarily more rigorous and constant fashion.

The coastal mitigation measure in this bill should not propagate fatalism about climate change. The next 20-30 years will be decisive in the GHG reduction and climate change arena. The difficult but necessary switch over to renewable energy cannot take place without the motivation (even in the form of fear) provided by the more frequent GHG accounting provided by this bill. At this stage of our state climate effort, with the runaway methane buildout, and stagnation on renewable initiatives like Share Solar, the administration's sincerity in its climate plan would be suspect without passage of this bill. Please rise to the occasion.

Respectfully,

James Root